5/2020

T H E VIEW First Pacific Insights

> Indofood PEDUL Bantuan Sosial yarakat Kelurahan Se

> > SERVING WITH COMPASSION AND CARE

WE HEALAS ONE CENTER

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FIRST PACIFIC



**First Pacific Group** companies and their loyal employees have faced the pandemic conditions with a strong sense of purpose. As businesses, they innovate to serve their customers. **Additional digital solutions** created during the crisis will disrupt traditional ways in future. As responsible citizens, companies volunteer and donate as never before. As frontliners, they continue to excel in adverse conditions.

This issue of *The View* is largely a record of inspiring Group initiatives and united action during Covid-19.

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### THE VIEW GOES DIGITAL

Welcome to the May edition of *The View*. We have launched a digital version online at www.firstpacific.com/press/theview. It highlights stories from around the group with videos to bring our news, innovations and events to life.

The digital version can be enjoyed at your desk or on your mobile phones wherever you are. Please click in and let us know your feedback.

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First Pacific is a Hong Kong-based investment management and holding company with operations located in Asia-Pacific. Our principal business investments relate to consumer food products, infrastructure, natural resources and telecommunications.

Within these sectors, our mission is to unlock value in our investee companies by:

- Delivering dividend/distribution returns to shareholders;
- Delivering share price/value appreciation of First Pacific and the investee companies; and
- Making further investment in value-enhancing businesses, taking into consideration all relevant criteria, including Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") factors to better manage risk and generate sustainable long-term returns.

# A word from the Chief

To my colleagues with the First Pacific Group



he Covid-19 pandemic came at us swiftly and savagely, killing thousands in a plague that continues across our lands. But our response has been equally swift, and resolute, owing most of all to our greatest strength, the thousands of dedicated people who make up the First Pacific Group of companies. You have the gratitude and appreciation of our tens of thousands – millions – of customers and suppliers and other stakeholders.

At First Pacific our governing philosophy has always been to invest in businesses that provide the products and services people need in good times and in bad. To offer high quality and competitive prices. To ensure that we are the provider of choice to all. If you are a farmer in a small rice field, a market stallholder, a mother, a caregiver, or a manager or businessperson. To us, you are important. This is not only the right thing to do; it makes good business sense to deliver downturn-resistant services and products.

And we are resisting this downturn fiercely. All of our businesses have been hit in one way or another by the Enhanced Quarantine Regime in the Philippines and similar pandemic responses in Indonesia and Singapore and Hong Kong. We are proving to be quite resilient.



In this issue of *The View* you will read what this means in practice as we respond and adapt to these new and difficult circumstances of pandemic. Our charitable contributions aren't done yet, though we are beginning to see a path towards a new postpandemic world.

To get there, PLDT has been beefing up its already best-in-class customer experience even as demand for data services like mobile gaming and video streaming blows through the roof. MPTC is adapting its tollways to allow rapid movement of essential vehicles across the National Capital Region. Maynilad has ensured waters services will remain reliable, adequate and safe. Meralco is ensuring that the surge in residential electricity demand is met. Philex is somehow managing to continue producing valuable export commodities even while social distancing. Indofood is keeping its distribution network safe for customers and staff, helping to maintain food security in the vast nation of Indonesia.

The first-quarter operations and earnings of our companies have been struck hard by this crisis but our businesses and our people are outdoing even the highest of expectations. I could not be more proud of all of you as we continue striving forward. On behalf of all our stakeholders, I thank you. <<

M V P



### FIRST PACIFIC GROUP RISES TO THE COVID-19 CHALLENGES

### Focus on fundamentals

Manuel V Pangilinan steers the First Pacific Group with a very clear directive: Focus on Fundamentals. These are:

- Protection and support for employees
- Servicing our customers
- Working with Government to serve communities

Group companies in Southeast Asia are adhering to government guidelines to keep their employees and communities safe and are stepping forward to support customers and communities, especially the most vulnerable. They are providing crucial assistance to public and private hospitals and are working with governments on nationwide relief initiatives.

First Pacific Group companies have mobilized resources in a wide range of relief assistance. These efforts will continue well into the future.

# Protection and support for employees

AT THE ONSET OF THIS CRISIS, THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT OF EACH OF OUR BUSINESSES MET AND AGREED ON PLANS TO DEAL WITH THE EFFECTS ON EACH COMPANY. THE PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATIONS WERE TO FORTIFY OUR BALANCE SHEETS AND PROTECT OUR CASH FLOWS OVER AN ASSUMED LIFE OF THE PANDEMIC.

YOU HAVE STEADY HANDS ON THE TILLER, AND THE SHIP ITSELF IS STURDY. SO, I ASSURE ALL OF YOU: OUR COMPANIES ARE SAFE, YOUR JOBS ARE SAFE, AND YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES ARE SAFE.

Manuel V Pangilinan

angilinan was swift to reassure employees that salaries and benefits are protected and there is sufficient cash to continue serving customers and procure protective equipment and devices for frontliners and hospitals.

### **PROTECTIVE POLICIES**

First Pacific Group companies introduced a work-from-home

policy wherever possible and are following government guidelines to help slow and isolate the pandemic, such as temperature checks of staff and visitors, and other practices. All employees who carry out essential work follow strict health, safety and hygiene protocols as they address emergency requirements and critical operations. Metro Pacific Investments Corporation ("MPIC") has mobilized a nationwide program to take care of its thousands of employees involved in infrastructure projects through the continuance of salaries and benefits during the crisis period.

The companies have made provisions for hygiene supplies and advance payment of mid-year bonuses while on lockdown. MPIC employees have also been given a work-from-home allowance to subsidize electricity and internet services.

Utilities with round-the-clock services such as Meralco and Maynilad have received medical assistance, personal protective equipment ("PPE") and hygiene kits for lockdown and mission critical operations, including skeletal workforces, shuttle bus services, meal allowances and roving company doctors on call, among other initiatives.

Philex Mining Corporation ("Philex") has introduced pandemic response policies at all its mine sites.







### PRIORITIZING THE PROTECTION OF HEALTH WORKERS

By the end of April, over 14,000 liters of 70% ethyl alcohol from Roxas Holdings Inc, had been distributed by MetroPac Movers Inc.

PLDT-Smart Foundation ("PSF") donated over 50,000 surgical facemasks and PPEs to various hospitals and frontliners in Metro Manila. PSF, with the assistance of Makati Medical Center Foundation also gave over 2,000 hazmat suits to different hospitals in Metro Manila and other provinces in the country. Protective masks were given to frontline health workers at the National Children's Hospital by TV5 Alagang Kapatid Foundation Inc. and Philex. MPIF donated PPEs to hospitals, medical institutions and local government units in Mindanao.

Grocery packs were also given to families of frontline health workers and families of soldiers manning checkpoints by PSF and SMART Communications Inc. ("Smart"). PSF has distributed thousands of grocery packs and hygiene kits.

An initiative of PSF and PLDT-Smart employees called "Kapit Kapatid" raised funds for frontline workers of hospitals and The Armed Forces of the Philippines ("AFP"), as well as office support personnel of PLDT- Smart. The fundraising program has raised over ₱6.6 million, which was used to purchase PPEs and grocery packs, and assisted 3,188 office personnel. The funds will also be used to feed over 8,000 underprivileged individuals through a partnership with AFP Mobile Kitchen.

Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation ("MPTC") provided free toll fees for medical and government frontliners, on its major North Luzon ("NLEX") and Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressways ("SCTEX").

NLEX Corporation conducts rapid mass testing for Covid-19 for all employees with priority to the frontliners, to assure its people and motorists' health and safety.

One Meralco Foundation ("OMF") has distributed care packages to more than 7,500 marginalized families in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. It also donated more than 17,000 PPEs for health workers in various government and private hospitals providing care to Covid patients.

OMF also raised ₱2.59 million from Meralco employees to support the foundation's initiatives including the provision of grocery gift certificates to 1,700 poor families through Caritas Manila's "Damayan" project.









The Philippine government imposed a total lockdown of the main island of Luzon on 16 March.

The Indonesian government introduced mandatory restrictions on 10 April.



# Servicing our customers

WE MUST KEEP THE LIGHTS ON, PEOPLE CONNECTED, WATER FLOWING, AND CARE FOR THOSE INFECTED BY THE VIRUS.

I HOPE THAT YEARS FROM TODAY, WE CAN ALL LOOK BACK AT THIS EXPERIENCE AND BE PROUD OF OURSELVES: FOR SERVING OUR CUSTOMERS WHO RELY ON US FOR OUR SERVICE; FOR SERVING OUR SHAREHOLDERS BY KEEPING THE BUSINESSES OPERATING DESPITE A DIFFICULT ENVIRONMENT; FOR SERVING THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES, IN AND OUT OF OUR COMPANIES, WHO DEPEND ON US FOR THEIR FUTURE.



Manuel V Pangilinan

### INDOFOOD PROTECTS SUPPLY CHAIN, BOOSTS E-COMMERCE

As one of the key stakeholders of the Indonesia food system, PT Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk ("Indofood") and its subsidiaries are actively supporting government measures to ensure a seamless supply of food to consumers.

Each Indofood factory holds an Industry Operational and Mobility License to support the Ministry of Industry. Indofood Group's supply chain continues to operate smoothly under Covid-19 pandemic mitigation measures.

The license also extends to Indofood's distributors, including its main distributor Indomarco, to ensure smooth order fulfilment from warehouses to customer's stores or distribution centers. All distributors are equipped with Covid-19 safety



equipment, including masks and hand sanitizer.

To meet the surge in online transactions during the pandemic, online store orders are supplemented by distributors' e-commerce platform, IDmarco.com. Customers' orders are served by more than 1,500 stock points.

### PLDT ROLLS OUT #STAYHOME MEASURES AND SERVICES

PLDT Group has implemented vital measures to safeguard its network: boosting speed, increasing capacity and offering new services and packages to help its customers in their time of need. It introduced discounts and giveaways to boost public access to news and information. It also provided free internet connectivity and free landline calls in critical areas. PLDT, Smart, Meralco, and Cignal TV all provided for 30-day payment extensions on bills that come due during the quarantine period.

PLDT Home has initiated its *#StayHome* campaign which provides for free, valuable services to subscribers during these difficult times.



PLDT has also provided digital solutions to enable productivity for businesses working remotely – helping them transition to a "new normal."

### **CONNECTED AND SAFE**

PLDT Home has rolled out free Speedboost for Luzon, a benefit to everyone working at home. Existing subscribers of PLDT Home Fibr Plan 1899 in Luzon were given one-month subscriptions to iflix VIP, giving them access to thousands of TV shows, movies and more.

### **MPIC COMPANIES AT THE VANGUARD**

In March, Pangilinan and Metro Pacific Hospital Holdings Inc. ("MPHHI") President and CEO Augusto Palisoc, Jr., created a round-the-clock crisis team, to coordinate activities to cope with the rising number of Covid-19 related cases.

"Our hospitals group are focusing their resources on critical concerns – particularly hospital care for the most critically-ill patients infected by Covid-19," Pangilinan told the Manila Standard.

The Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Manila was designated by MPHHI as its main Covid-19 facility among its portfolio of 16 hospitals. Bed capacity for Covid-19 patients was expanded across the group from 266 to 700.

MPHHI is increasing its laboratory testing capacity and adopting new strategies such as Makati Medical Center's tele-health services *"teleconsultation"* via mobile and video conferencing with convenient digital payments via PayMaya.

Maynilad Water Services ("Maynilad") has reported that it has sufficient reserves of water through June and has commitments of further supply for the balance of the year. It has also suspended disconnection of overdue accounts.

# <section-header>





#BeatCOVID19 #COVID19PH #MVPGroup



# Working with governments to serve communities

### YOU ARE THE BEARERS OF TORCHES THAT GIVE LIGHT TO THE DARK CORNERS OF OUR COUNTRY – NOT JUST MIRRORS PASSIVELY REFLECTING THE LIGHT OF OTHERS ..... I CANNOT FAIL TO BE MOVED BY THE DEMONSTRATION OF COMPASSION AND CARE, BY THE GIVING AND SHARING.

Manuel V Pangilinan

### PROVISION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Indofood, together with the Indonesian business members of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce (Kadin) and the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation Indonesia, raised funds to purchase medical equipment for health workers on the frontline. In addition, medical equipment assistance has also been distributed to 100 institutions and 600 hospitals and health centers.

The consortium pledged to supply around 2.2 million masks, 1 million rapid test kits, 37,000 N95 masks, 32,000 safety equipment kits, 11,000 bottles of disinfectant liquid, 1,600 disinfectant sprayers and 107 ventilators, with more assistance on the way.

Through collaboration with several institutions such as BPOM and GAPMMI, Indofood assists and provides food products for thousands of medical personnel serving in various hospitals.





"We believe that when all elements of the nation are united, we will be able to face the current situation. All this assistance is our contribution in helping the government and the community in facing and preventing the spread of COVID-19," said Axton Salim, Director of Indofood.

### **MOBILIZING RESOURCES**

First Pacific Group companies and their foundations are donating PPEs, disinfectant, decontamination services and packs of hygiene and food items, financial assistance and temporary shelters to frontline staff, sanitation and maintenance teams, security officers, police and military personnel, and needy communities.

At the Ninoy Aquino Stadium quarantine facility, Smart provides free connectivity; Meralco provides free power; Maynilad, free water; and MPTC donated an initial 350 hospital beds. MPIC is providing ventilators, PPEs, face masks, ECG machines, defibrillators, mobile X-rays and a host of other components to set up a mobile laboratory.



### LIFELINES TO GOVERNMENT, PATIENTS AND FRONTLINERS

PLDT sponsored the provision of high-level decontamination services using Steramist Asia's Binary Ionization Technology for The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Muntinlupa City and the National Kidney and Transplant Institute in Quezon City, as well as connectivity to Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory - a Covid-19 testing center.

Smart has extended fast, free and reliable communications assistance kits to the frontliners of various government departments and medical facilities for Covid-19 patients, such as the Department of Health ("DOH"), the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine General Hospital, Hospital, the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, the Department of Transportation and others.

Smart free WiFi is available in campuses that are housing Covid-19 frontliners, hospitals, supermarkets



and convenience stores. Smart also offers carrier-grade Smart WiFi connectivity, fixed-line and pocket mobile WiFi, smartphones, SIM cards, e-load and online messaging platforms to provincial capitals, and city and municipal halls across the country which are acting as command centers.

Smart has also donated cars for use of frontliners to the Office of the President, as well as 30 vehicles to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

PLDT, Smart and ePLDT have also developed Covid-19 emergency hotlines in partnership with the DOH and other government departments for Filipinos seeking consultation about the disease. Emergency hotline numbers and call center facilities are provided for key government agencies and toll-free calls for PLDT, Smart, Sun, and TNT subscribers to emergency hotline numbers.

PLDT has provided financial support to the *Bayanihan Musikahan* musical



fundraiser and Smart has recruited top musicians and artists for its *Smart Music Live Online Sessions* to raise funds for frontliners.

PLDT also supports *Kaagapay: Protect our Healthcare Heroes* project, led by the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

### **FRONTLINERS' RAPIDPASS**

PLDT Enterprise and Smart have equipped frontliners with 540 pre-loaded smartphones to enable them to move rapidly around Metro Manila. Various government departments deploy a RapidPass QR code, which authorizes frontliners to pass through quarantine checkpoints securely and speedily.

"Your company's support to the government to realize the full operationalization of RapidPass will affect millions of Filipinos who will benefit from the decongestion of Quarantine Control Points, as well as the health of PNP personnel at the control points as they will now be able to exercise social distancing with the use of RapidPass," said DOST Secretary Fortunato de la Pena in a letter to PLDT Chairman and CEO Manuel V Pangilinan.

### SMART BOOSTS LAGUNA GOVERNMENT'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Smart has extended communications assistance to frontliners working with

the Laguna provincial government, providing smartphones with SIMs and e-load.

PLDT has also provided internet connectivity to the Incident Command Center of the provincial government, and boosted connectivity at Sta. Cruz, to fasttrack the processing of Covid-19 test results in the province.

"The provincial government of Laguna expresses its deepest gratitude for extending your support and generosity to our health workers and frontliners who are battling the Covid-19 pandemic," said Laguna Governor Ramil Hernandez in a letter to PLDT Chairman and CEO Manuel V Pangilinan.

### PLDT, SMART MAKE EDUCATION SERVICES FREE TO SUBSCRIBERS

PLDT and Smart are providing free access to online education services by the Department of Education ("DepEd"). Students and teachers can access the DepEd Commons site without charge over the Smart network, enabling them to use a wide range of quality resources at all curriculum levels.

"In this time of crisis, it is important that we make it possible to overcome this challenge with solid partnerships with the private sector. We are thankful for our partners' generosity in support of the continuity of public education by providing us free data for DepEd Commons access amid the Covid-19 situation," Education Secretary Leonor Briones told the Manila Standard.

Even those who have no online access will be helped with donations of Smart's School-in-a-Bag, a digital learning laboratory.

PLDT Chief Revenue Officer and Smart President Al Panlilio noted, "With digital learning becoming more mainstream given the COVID-19 pandemic, online teaching has come to the fore, changing the local educational climate and norms of teaching forever."



### **#ONEAGAINSTCOVID19**

PayMaya and partners launched a one-stop digital donation service #OneAgainst Covid19, to channel donations to relief agencies and charities.

"In this time of great and urgent need, coming together in the traditional spirit of bayanihan (cooperation) becomes ever more important so that no one gets left behind," PayMaya Founder and CEO Orlando B Vea told the Manila Standard.





### MPIC GROUP RALLIES WITH GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT COVID-19

MPTC is providing relief goods, PPEs, livelihood projects and hospital beds to government, communities and hospitals. MPTC President Rodrigo E. Franco was quoted in *Businessworld* as saying: *"With these urgent donations, MPTC hopes to support ongoing government relief efforts and somewhat ease the worries of families in these barangays."* 

MPTC also provides livelihood projects and food for communities in Cebu and Cordova.

NLEX, the Department of Public Works and Highways, and religious group Iglesia ni Cristo have partnered to complete a 300-bed *Heal as One* Covid-19 quarantine center at the Philippine Arena in Bulacan. Pangilinan said, *"This is another testament to the effective collaboration among the public and private sectors. Our group will continue to support the government's Covid-19 emergency response programs and help the country recover from this pandemic. During this health crisis, everyone must pitch in."* 

OMF donated desktop computers to the Philippine Genome Center at the University of the Philippines ("UP"), which is sequencing samples from Covid patients to provide researchers and scientists with more information about the coronavirus. The center also serves as the command center of various volunteer groups in the UP system.

### POWER, TRANSPORT, FOOD SUPPLIES, WATER

Smart, Meralco and Maynilad provide free WiFi, electricity and water to the quarantine/temporary health centers in the Ninoy Aquino Stadium, Rizal Memorial Stadium, Philippine International Convention Center, the World Trade Center and Macapagal Terminal-South Harbor.

The company has converted the Meralco multi-purpose hall into a temporary shelter with complete amenities for medical frontliners. Meralco subsidiary eSakay and OMF are providing electric vehicle shuttles



for medical and essential workers of Pasig City, and funded testing kits. OMF has also distributed PPEs to 44 hospitals and four health centers. Meralco is also providing electricity to more than 17 hospitals, government agencies and temporary treatment facilities.

As thousands of homeless families and frontline medical staff were severely impacted by Covid-19, OMF has partnered with TV5's Alagang Kapatid Foundation, Maynilad, and the National Capital Region Police Office to bring relief. They are distributing food and hygiene packs to thousands of urban poor families. Meralco has also run an internal campaign to raise funds for the homeless, benefiting at least 1,700 families.

### SAFEGUARDING TRANSPORTATION

Light Rail Manila Corporation ("LRMC") is providing free alcohol and thermometers to all LRT1 merchants and commuters, and disinfection and sanitation services for all trains and public transport vehicles, as well as hygiene supplies. It has waived fixed monthly areas and other service fees for its merchants.

OMF, Maynilad, and LRMC are providing transportation assistance for health workers, donating eJeeps, vans and coasters to serve as free shuttle services. Global Business Power







Corporation has donated ₱500,000 for transportation assistance.

### SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS AND HOSPITALS

Local farmers were unable to sell their produce and the food industry experienced limited access to fresh vegetables due to the lockdown. As part of Metro Pacific Investments Foundation's ("MPIF") ongoing Covid-19 relief efforts, it purchased over 8,000 kilograms of fresh vegetables from local farmers' cooperatives which were donated to beneficiaries.

"Being out there and personally distributing relief goods while mindful of social distancing for everyone's safety, gives you a firsthand view of people's needs," MPIF President Melody del Rosario said.

To provide income to vegetable farmers and, at the same time, provide nourishment to frontliners, OMF launched the *"From Farmers to the Frontliners"* program, which procured more than 3,000 kilograms of fresh vegetables from the Cordillera region. These were donated to hospitals and to temporary shelters.

Philex came to the aid of its communities and hospitals, allocating more than ₱10 million to provide PPEs, sanitation and food to Padcal mine's host and neighbouring communities.

The company has also partnered with TV5's Alagang Kapatid Foundation to donate N95 masks to frontliners in hospitals. Silangan Mindanao Mining donated personal protective equipment and rice to the CARAGA Regional Hospital and the Provincial Hospital of Surigao del Norte.

### WORKING TIRELESSLY THROUGH TULONG KAPATID

First Pacific Group companies in the Philippines are taking an active role in this fight against Covid-19 through Tulong Kapatid (*Brotherly Help*).

The CSR group is organizing, channeling and distributing supplies and services from our operating companies. Disinfectant alcohol, water, food, medical supplies, telecoms equipment, cars, buses and vans to transport armed forces and frontliners and more, are being efficiently deployed to help in the battle against the deadly virus.

### **LEADING THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

The Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, is the major private sector coordinator for disaster risk reduction and management in the country. It has launched *Project Kaagapay* for healthcare heroes and *Project Ugnayan* for poor households. PLDT, Meralco and Maynilad have contributed to Project Ugnayan – a fund-raising initiative reaching over 1.5 million families or 7.6 million people in Greater Metro Manila. PLDT also supports *Kaagapay: Protect our Healthcare Heroes.* 

### ADVANCE TAXES PAID BY OPERATING COMPANIES

First Pacific operating companies in the Philippines have also paid advance taxes of ₱1.94 billion on 30 April 2020, to support the government's revenue efforts. <<

# Dedicated and brave frontliners

ot all superheroes wear a cape. The fight against Covid-19 has revealed thousands of heroes, for whom working-from-home is not an option. They are the health workers, the customs inspectors, military personnel, police, firemen, postmen, garbage employees, bank staff, farmers, fishermen, grocery store staff, market vendors, NGO workers and more.

In the operating companies of First Pacific Group, our frontliners work in Philippine hospitals and health centers, in our data and service centers, in the field maintaining telco connectivity, power, toll roads, water, logistics and light rail. In Indonesia, they also safeguard the food supply chain.

Indofood's Production Manager of liquid milk Indolakto (Purwosari factory), Norman Santoso describes their mission. "It is such a challenging task....our manufacturing team has to ensure that all raw and packaging materials are available, our employees can arrive safely and despite physical distancing, we can achieve our production target. The next task is to deliver our products to our distributors or distribution center warehouses. We know that so many people rely on our products!"

Our CSR teams and volunteers expanded their relief efforts, tirelessly distributing the most needed food, relief goods, essential and hygiene packs to hard-hit communities.

This Profile honors all frontliners, with the stories of just a few.

### WE NEVER WALK ALONE

Volunteers were quick to answer the call for frontliners to assist Metro Pacific Hospitals' Covid-19 facility, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Manila. Eight were from St. Elizabeth Hospital. Nurse Geraldine Domanio's motivation became her group's battle



cry: "I am a nurse. Can't stay home. This is a calling that I need to answer."

Eight more medics volunteered from Manuel J. Santos Hospital. Their reason for helping is inspiring: *"To save and serve the people,"* said Gerald Pasco.

MPIC noted, "Helping those in need is in their blood, and we are deeply grateful to work with frontliners like them. They are living proof of the care and compassion of the Filipino people. They also show that, in our network of hospitals, we never walk alone."

"We are fully committed to supporting our frontline health workers who are working tirelessly to save lives and to combat this pandemic. We will continue to pour in resources to address the needs and demands of our frontline workers, including PPEs and relief packages," Pangilinan told the Manila Standard.

### **A MAN ON A MISSION**

Medical technician Marphil Sullivan is so determined to get to work, he uses his skateboard to get to Cardinal Santos Medical Center's Blood Bank.

THANK YOU FRONTLINERS The kids from Messiah Angel Learning Center showed their support and encouragement to our frontliners at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital by sending their warm thoughts and well wishes.

"Thank you kids, for giving us reasons to fight."





The Center said, "Thank you for your

dedication and commitment to serve.

You are an inspiration to us."

**LIGHTING THE DARKNESS** 

Meralco frontliners are used to

working round the clock, monitoring

and fixing power problems during

emergency situations - typhoons,

floods, earthquakes and volcano

eruption. During the enhanced

community quarantine ("ECQ"),

they continue their crucial work

in supplying power as residential

demand surges. In addition, new

shared with Business Mirror, "Last

week, there was an urgent request by the government to energize Ninov

Aquino Stadium quarantine facilities.

A total of 14 crews worked around the

clock and we didn't stop until it was

tasks need attention. Lord Percival

"Bigs" Cheng, a Meralco team leader





"Everyone was so exhausted, but you could see the joy in their faces. The joy from fulfilling the sincere desire to be of help. It's in our DNA, even though we are a private company, it is our civic duty to deliver safe and reliable power during these times."

He noted, "During ECQ, it is our duty to ensure that all customers have safe and reliable power, especially vital installations like hospitals and quarantine facilities.....To protect our families, we endure the pain of separation from them. It's good our company supports us with board and lodging, and PPEs."

### KEEPING THE CLEAN WATER FLOWING

Maynilad maintains the crucial water supplies throughout the crisis. Water Supply Operations Technician, Arnel Cestona says, "The situation is not easy. Whenever I leave the house to do my job at the plant, I *can't help but think of the possibility* that I might be exposed to the virus, and that I'm putting my family's health at risk as well. However, I know that what I'm doing is not only for my family but also for the Maynilad customers who rely on our service that's why I still choose to go to work everyday. I keep in mind that my sacrifice will somehow help fulfill our promise to serve our customers. It's also a way of showing them that we are one with them in this fight."

Plant Engineer at Wastewater Management Division Justin Arvin J Nisay adds, *"I feel responsible and glad by doing my duties and being* 

OUR THOUSANDS OF HARDWORKING FRONTLINE STAFF HAVE BEEN SELFLESS IN THEIR DEDICATION, ESPECIALLY OUR FRONTLINE DOCTORS AND NURSES WHO ARE DIRECTLY EXPOSED TO COVID RISK. WE OWE ALL OF THEM AN INESTIMABLE DEBT OF GRATITUDE.

Manuel V Pangilinan





able to contribute to Maynilad amid this Covid-19 ECQ. May we all finish this outbreak completely safe and sound. I thank our management for giving us assurance and for taking measures to prevent us from the infectious Covid-19."

### OUR EXPRESSWAYS ARE THE FRONTLINES

Tireless teams from MPTC supported the government's call for the expressways to promote the unhampered flow of cargoes, essential food supplies and medical equipment for our countrymen during the quarantine.

### **PLDT HEART**

PLDT's tower riggers and field engineers are working extremely hard to ensure continuous connectivity during this difficult period.

"Our priority is to maintain the uninterrupted signal and fast connection especially now that most employees are working from home. Whenever there are concerns regarding slow connectivity and outages, we immediately respond to them," said Alberto Ambil, Smart's network field services engineer.

Angelo Sandig, is a telecom engineer for PLDT's North Luzon Fixed Access and Trans Operations. He is on call 24/7 and is an essential worker in making visits to customers, maintaining telecom communications to help families stay in touch and businesses to operate.

Sandig finds motivation in helping others. He told the *Manila Bulletin* 



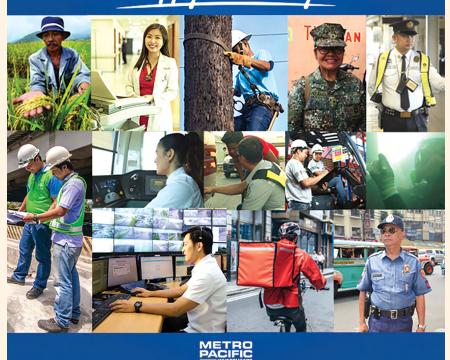
that "This is one of the many things that give us strength despite the threats of Covid-19 ... For me, 'pusong PLDT' (PLDT heart) means public service. It's about serving with all your heart. Whether the customers see you or not, I'm happy to be of service to them by providing them the internet service for their family."

### **A BALANCING ACT**

The engineer's own life is not plain sailing at the moment. He has two young children at home and his wife is also on call - as an essential hospital worker at the Bulacan Medical Center. OUR EXPRESSWAYS ARE THE FRONTLINES. AND WITH RESOLUTE OPTIMISM, AND BRAVE HEARTS, OUR FRONTLINERS KEPT CAVITEX AND CALAX OPEN 24/7 AND DELIVERING THE BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE. WE THANK YOU AND WE SALUTE YOU!

> Maria Teresa V Capistrano Metro Pacific Tollways South

We are all frontliners. We are all **HEROES**. *Happy Labor Day!* 





He notes, "I feel worried whenever I go outside for work. That's why we ensure that we wear our personal protective equipment and strictly follow safety protocols. But still, I feel worried for my kids at home because we never know if we encounter or carry the virus from the places that we visit."

Yet for Sandig, the PLDT values of service to customers and sacrifice in a time of crisis are top of his mind. "If we don't do our work, what will happen to them?"

### LRT1'S MAINTENANCE WORK NEVER STOPS

LRMC role is critical to ensure the safety and availability of the transport system. LRMC Engineering Head Jojo Santiago explains how they handle the pressure. "With onset of ECQ, a skeleton workforce was readily formed to secure the system.....managing the team remotely is really a challenge..... We trust our people, the system and our company LRMC. We are lucky to have dedicated people in our fold who treat the system as their own, and a company who takes care and look after the welfare of its workforce. In engineering, we focus on our slogan . . . One Team Engineering for the PEOPLE, for the SYSTEM, and for LRMC!"

He continues, "As true guardians of mobility, we take pride in providing the best and most effective service that we can and will strive to continue to do so for our system, for LRMC, and the riding public in the years to come."

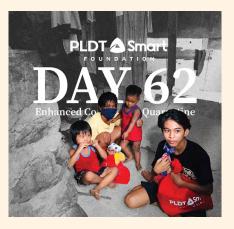
Due to strict/limited movements outside LRMC compound, LRMC Operations Control Center ("OCC") Chief Andre Dela Merced stayed at the OCC for more than a month to serve his duty. He communicates with his teammates through Facebook chat room, including a daily health check (mind and body), how to cope with situations arising from the pandemic and updates on LRMC's announcements.

### TULONG KAPATID AIDS WASTE MANAGEMENT TEAMS

In a time of a viral pandemic, waste management is a vital health service. The people at its frontline work in hazardous situations as garbage collectors, pickers, river waste management and street sweepers.

The Tulong Kapatid alliance supports waste management teams in Quezon City, the largest and most populous area in Metro Manila. On 7 May, Metro Pacific Investments Foundation ("MPIF"), One Meralco Foundation, PLDT-Smart Foundation, Maynilad and Alagang Kapatid Foundation of TV5 provided face shields, grocery packs and bottled water to workers. <<







**THE MANDATE FOR TULONG KAPATID TO REACH OUT TO GARBAGE COLLECTORS CAME FROM OUR CHAIRMAN, MANUEL V PANGILINAN, WHO** SAID NOT TO DISREGARD THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE **BEING EXPOSED DAILY** NOT ONLY TO DANGER SUCH AS BROKEN GLASS. SMOKE AND CHEMICAL INHALATION.....BUT ALSO TO THE CORONAVIRUS. THEY PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN OUR SOCIETY AND **NEGLECTING THEM COULD POSE ENORMOUS HEALTH** AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

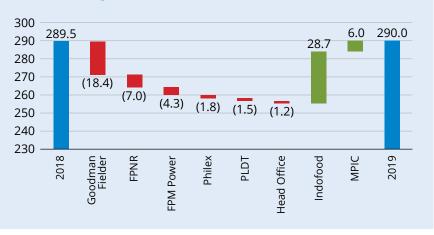
> Melody del Rosario MPIF President

# First Pacific 2019 annual results financial highlights

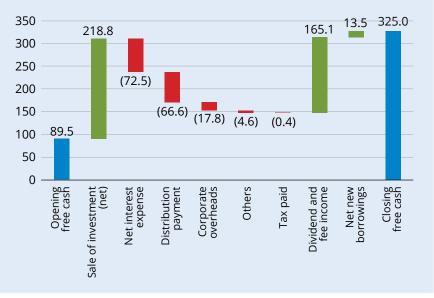
### CORE HOLDINGS DELIVER 9% CONTRIBUTION GROWTH

- Turnover rose 4% to \$8.0 billion vs. \$7.7 billion on strong growth at Indofood and MPIC
- Contribution from three core holdings (Indofood, MPIC, PLDT) rose 9% to \$409.5 million vs. \$376.3 million a year earlier
- Contribution from operations rose at a slower 0.4% rate to \$395.6 million vs. \$393.9 million largely as a result of lower contribution from noncore investments
- Recurring profit was flat at \$290.0 million vs. \$289.5 million on lower corporate overhead offset by higher other costs
- First Pacific recorded a net loss of \$253.9 million vs. net profit of \$131.8 million a year earlier largely as a result of loss on disposal of Goodman Fielder and noncash impairment in the value of investment in PacificLight Power
- Net interest expense was flat at \$76.5 million vs. \$76.4 million, corporate overheads fell 12% to \$20.8 million vs. \$23.7 million and other expenses rose 93% to \$8.3 million vs. \$4.3 million
- The sale of the Goodman Fielder stake in December 2019 delivered proceeds of \$275.0 million
- Full-year distribution of 13.5 HK cents/share amounts to 26% of recurring profit, marking the 10th year in a row that First Pacific has distributed at least 25% of recurring profit to shareholders

### 2019 Recurring Profit (USD million)







### HEAD OFFICE BALANCE SHEET AS AT END-2019

- Gross assets \$5.1 billion
- Gross debt \$1.67 billion
- Net debt \$1.34 billion
- Average maturity of 3.2 years
- Blended interest cost of 4.2%
- Secured debt at 15% of the total
- Fixed-rate borrowings make up 53% of the total <<</p>

### PRESIDENT DUTERTE LEADS INSPECTION OF NLEX HARBOR LINK C3-R10 SECTION

Elevated expressway to speed traffic to and from the ports in Manila

he NLEX Harbor Link C3-R10 Section is a new expressway in the north of Metro Manila. It will improve movement of cargo in the North and South Harbor and is expected to ease the daily traffic congestion in the CAMANAVA metropolitan area – the cities of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela.

On 5 March 2020, President Rodrigo R Duterte conducted a progress inspection of the NLEX Harbor Link C3-R10 Section, the new 2.6-km elevated expressway from Caloocan Interchange to Navotas City.

Joining the President were Executive Secretary Salvador C Medialdea, Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark A Villar and Transportation Secretary Arthur P Tugade, and Metro Pacific Investments Corporation ("MPIC") and Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation ("MPTC") Chairman Manuel V Pangilinan.



In his speech, President Duterte said that the completion of the project shall pave way for the productive capacity of the economy, create more jobs and strengthen the Philippines' investment climate for sustainable growth.

### TIMELY AND EFFICIENT

He recognized the efforts of the Department of Public Works and Highways ("DPWH"), the Department of Transportation and the



NLEX Corporation for the timely and efficient completion of the project.

The new elevated expressway will reduce travel time between the port area in Manila to NLEX from 60 minutes to 10 minutes, ensuring timely delivery of goods and smoother logistics. It is expected to divert 30,000 vehicles daily away from the traffic choke points of Metro Manila.

Pangilinan expressed MPIC's infrastructure mission, stating, "Metro Pacific remains committed to creating an enabling business environment by building road networks that will contribute to the government's efforts to solve Metro Manila's traffic congestion, advance mobility, and spur economic activities."

The C3-R10 Section is also being eyed to unleash the development potentials of CAMANAVA in terms of commercial activities, tourism, real estate, among others. <<

### ONGOING CONSTRUCTION

- CAVITEX C5 South Link
- Cavite Laguna Expressway
- Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway
- NLEX-SLEX Connector Road
- NLEX Harbour Link Radial Road 10







### MPTC IN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IN MUN IN INDONESIA

Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation ("MPTC") completed the sale of its 10.32% stake in Indonesian toll road operator PT Margautama Nusantara ("MUN") to West Nippon Expressway ("NEXCO-West"), Japan Expressway International Co., Ltd. ("JEXWAY") and Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport & Urban Development ("JOIN") on 8 May 2020. The sale of the stake valued at approximately US\$35 million.

### **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE LINKS**

MUN operates four toll road concessions including key infrastructure links such as the roads connecting to Soekarno-Hatta International Airport area in Jakarta, and to Soekarno-Hatta Port in Makassar.

Having the Japanese investors as strategic partners "will significantly contribute to the growth of MUN. Their knowledge and capability in toll roads will be instrumental in identifying operational efficiencies and improvements." MPTC said.

JEXWAY and NEXCO-West are well-known for their extensive experience and expertise in operating and maintaining toll roads, while JOIN is the first and only government-private fund in Japan that specializes in overseas infrastructure investment. <<

# NLEX Tambubong Interchange in service

The NLEX Corporation and the Department of Public Works and Highways Region 3 opened the NLEX Tambubong Interchange on 13 March 2020.

he interchange aims to decongest traffic and serve as an alternative route to Eastern towns in Bulacan Province in the Philippines' Central Luzon.

Bulacan's proximity to Metro Manila and its planned infrastructure projects - including the proposed international airport, mega city and business zone - make it one of the viable business destinations in Luzon of the future.

"With these new access roads, we are expecting to enhance mobility within the Bulacan road network and help alleviate heavy traffic conditions at the Bocaue Interchange." said NLEX Corporation President and General Manager J Luigi L Bautista.

The Tambubong Interchange features a two-lane, 290-meter southbound entry; a two-lane, 180-meter northbound entry; and a three-lane, 240-meter northbound exit. <<



A giant rises

MPTC has recorded a milestone in the construction of the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway ("CCLEX"). This 8.5-kilometer bridge tollway will directly connect Cebu City to the municipality of Cordova across the Mactan channel and provide an alternate congestion-free route to the Mactan Cebu International Airport, and is targeted for completion in 2021. On 28 October 2019, a 400-ton Tower 2 Form Traveler was lifted into place, which will be used to build the pier table and bridge deck. The accompanying video shows the completion of this monumental engineering task. **<** 





### **DIGITAL GAMECHANGERS**

PLDT Enterprise's *Hot Joe* magazine has unveiled its insights on trends in digital transformation.



In *Trends We Are Looking Forward To*, PLDT Enterprise Vice President and Head of ePLDT/PLDT Disruptive Business Group Nico Alcoseba says, "Industrial Revolution 4.0 has also required us to rethink our ways of working and what leadership should look like amid this world that is perpetually in flux." The new technologies are shaking the ground for digital transformation. <<

# PLDT Enterprise identifies business trends

PLDT Enterprise is well-placed at the forefront of business and technology to see big trends emerging amongst the changing business landscape.

LDT Enterprise Vice President and Head for Digital Solutions John Gonzales and PLDT Enterprise First Vice President Mitch Locsin shared their views at an exclusive CEO Forum on Connectivity and Data Security.

On 6 April 2020, PLDT Enterprise co-hosted the Forum with the IT & Business Process Association of the Philippines ("IBPAP"). IBPAP is the enabling association for the information technology and business process management ("IT-BPM") industry in the Philippines.

### TRANSITIONING TO TELECOMMUTING

Gonzales spoke about technology's role in powering the new ways of working amidst Covid-19 and in the future. He described PLDT's relationship approach with its customers: "We place emphasis

Founded in 2004, IBPAP serves as the one-stop information and advocacy gateway for the industry.

With over 300 members and six partner associations, the organization plays a pivotal role in sustaining the growth of the IT-BPM industry.

It assists investors and locators in setting up operations easily and quickly in the Philippines.

on consultation and quality, without compromising your time-sensitive operation ... we want to remove the complications of implementing these technologies and increase the pervasiveness of adoption."

He emphasized PLDT's considerations, including data privacy, cyber security and connectivity, to ensure the seamless transitioning of its customers to telecommuting.

Gonzales shared his insights, saying, "We can see a shift and increase in technology purchasing in relation to Business Continuity Planning ("BCP") products such as conferencing tools, data centers and cyber security services for businesses." Locsin added, "Another big trend would be the shift of the education sector to e-learning. In addition, it is projected that around 50% of the next school year would be conducted online." <<

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# Fresh investment in Voyager's PayMaya

LDT's leading technology company, Voyager Innovations ("Voyager") is committed to its strategy of providing access to digital financial services to millions of Filipinos, many of whom had previously been unbanked. It has made significant strides in this mission through its financial technology arm, PayMaya Philippines ("PayMaya").

On 6 April 2020, PLDT and four investors – KKR, Tencent, IFC, a World Bank Group member, and the IFC Emerging Asia Fund under IFC Asset Management Company, announced the signing of

PayMaya uniquely offers the widest range of integrated payments solutions for merchants and consumers, local governments and national and social services in the Philippines. PayMaya has two key businesses:

- PayMaya Enterprise enables all types of merchants to accept online and face-toface payments through a unique proprietary end-to-end payments ecosystem (gateway, processing, and acquiring for several schemes including Visa, Mastercard, and JCB).
- PayMaya Consumer provides Filipinos with convenient access to digital financial services through PayMaya, the most recognized prepaid e-wallet and digital payments app with over 40,000 Add Money touchpoints nationwide and via Smart Padala, the leading remittance network in the country.



agreements to provide new funding of up to US\$120 million for Voyager's expansion. This new investment, which follows previous investments of US\$215 million in Voyager in 2018, is intended to further fund and accelerate PayMaya's mission of digital financial inclusion throughout the Philippines.

PLDT, KKR, IFC, IFC Emerging Asia Fund and Tencent said in a joint statement: "This fresh round of investment is a testament to Voyager's success in providing Filipinos with access to convenient, relevant and inclusive digital financial services through PayMaya. This is also a recognition of the significant role that the Philippine financial technology industry can play in providing meaningful digital solutions to many of the crucial and very human challenges that the Philippine community faces today."

### **SPURRING CASHLESS ADOPTION**

CEO and Founder of Voyager Orlando Vea, said: "In line with the country's goals, we have made significant strides in spurring cashless adoption in a largely unbanked population. This funding boosts PayMaya's ability to reach more Filipinos, especially as access to digital financial services becomes even more important."

President of Voyager and PayMaya Shailesh Baidwan, added: "Today, more than ever, our end-to-end digital financial services are becoming more relevant and embedded in the daily lives of Filipinos - from sending money, buying airtime load, or paying for purchases through our PayMaya wallet, bridging the unbanked and underserved via mobile remittance through our over 27,000 Smart Padala partner touchpoints in communities, to enabling payment acceptance for all kinds of merchants. This investment will enable us to better support our financial inclusion thrust, while allowing us to expand to adjacent services."

PayMaya's inclusive technologies and services have never been more relevant, as the company has played a vital role in cashless transactions and driving donations for humanitarian support for those impacted by Covid-19. **<** 

### TAX PAYMENT MADE EASY

PayMaya and the Bureau of Internal Revenue join forces

ndividual taxpayers in the Philippines can now remit their taxes easily and conveniently, thanks to a PayMaya digital channel. PayMaya has joined the Bureau of Internal Revenue ("BIR") in a partnership announced on 14 February 2020.

PayMaya Founder and CEO Orlando Vea said, "We are proud to be enabling the BIR with new options for card and wallet payments through PayMaya. As more Filipinos go digital, the BIR is opening up secure, convenient and reliable options to the tax-paying public."



### A MAJOR SHIFT TO DIGITAL

Internal Revenue Deputy Commissioner Lanee David told the *Philippine Star*, "Over the years, the BIR has worked to better serve the public by providing more convenient and reliable services ... Now with the addition of PayMaya, we are expecting a significant shift in favor of electronic payments and of course, a significant increase in our e-filers. By tapping PayMaya, BIR will be able to elevate taxpayer experience by allowing them to pay taxes anytime, anywhere with just a few taps on their mobile phones."

The BIR would be able to process payments using any credit, debit, or prepaid card through PayMaya. <<

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# METPower and Dole win accreditation

PIC wholly-owned subsidiary **METPower Venture Partners** Holdings, Inc., ("METPower") and Dole Philippines Inc.'s joint biogas project, registered as "Biogas Power Generation and Fuel Conversion Project in Pineapple *Canneries"* under the Joint Crediting Mechanism ("JCM") Model Project has qualified to receive the subsidy for low-carbon projects. Itochu Corporation of Japan was instrumental in initiating and leading the accreditation process with the Global Environmental Centre Foundation.

The project was approved to receive the maximum subsidy of 50% for its qualified capital cost from the Ministry of the Environment, Japan. The JCM is a system to cooperate with developing countries in reducing greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions by both partner countries and Japan. The Dole biogas project aims to reduce GHG emissions by approximately 50,000 tonnes  $CO_2$  equivalent per year from fossil fuel substitutes.

### VALIDATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Construction of the biogas facilities for Dole's canneries in Mindanao is underway, and are expected to commence commercial operations by the first half of 2021. These integrated waste-to-energy facilities aim to complement Dole's existing operation by processing organic fruit waste and harnessing biogas to produce 5.7 MW equivalent of clean renewable energy. METPower CEO Karim Garcia said "The Dole Biogas Project is a perfect example of a collaborative venture that benefits all stakeholders - Dole, METPower, the governments of Japan and the Philippines, and ultimately, the environment. With this JCM Model Project recognition, we have further validation of the considerable environmental benefit our biogas plants bring in curbing the greenhouse effect and capturing methane emissions for alternative fuel use." <<



# A win for the environment

PLDT and Smart Communications have entered a partnership with the University of the Philippines ("UP") in support of research on climate change and marine biodiversity protection.

he partnership agreement was signed on 12 February 2020 by PLDT Chairman and CEO Manuel V Pangilinan, with the UP's Marine Science Institute ("MSI") and the Marine Environment and Resources Foundation.

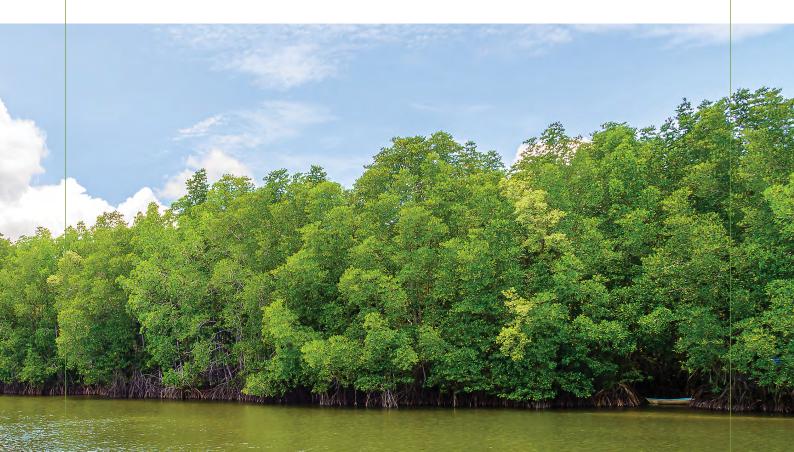
"PLDT and Smart are taking a more collaborative approach to help create a more sustainable environment," Pangilinan told the *Philippine Star*. "Through partnerships like this one with the UP MSI, we hope to do our share in raising awareness about climate change and taking concrete action to combat it."

The research will be undertaken in 24 marine reserves, with a focus on mangroves and sea grasses, and employing remote sensing as a measuring tool. These ecosystems have an important role as carbon sequesters, in mitigating climate change and preserving marine life sustainability.

PLDT Senior Vice President and Group Controller and Chief Sustainability Officer, Chaye Cabal-Revilla, said, "The world is facing the consequences of how we have taken care of our environment in previous years. Our sustainability efforts are small steps geared toward creating progressive changes in our environment."

"This initiative of Gabay Kalikasan aims to help empower and capacitate local communities on coastal and marine environmental management," she added.

The PLDT Group said it is committed to boosting its efforts to conduct business in ways that protect future generations, including the planet. <<



### \land PLDT

# **Taal Eruption Relief**

Relief offered in aftermath of Taal Volcano eruption

he violent eruption of Taal Volcano in Batangas, Philippines, on 12 January 2020 was disastrous for parts of Metro Manila, Central Luzon and the llocos Region. Toxic lava and ashfall displaced over 16,174 families or 70,413 individuals, according to official reports. The First Pacific Group of companies in the Philippines were swift to spring into relief action, provided most-needed assistance to thousands of evacuees.

Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation ("MPTC") cleared ashfall from the Cavite-Laguna Expressway, provided standby water supply for windshield washing and distributed relief to evacuee families.

Maynilad teamed up with the Department of Public Works and Highways to fill ten water tankers for cleaning purposes and donated 1,500 6-liter bottles of water to evacuees in Calaca, Batangas, where Static Water Tanks ("SWT") were installed for refilling, sanitation and ashfall clearing. Maynilad provided additional SWTs to other evacuation areas.

One Meralco Foundation ("OMF") deployed its solar-powered mobile charging stations in evacuation centers while its linemen and engineers worked round the clock to restore power in affected areas. Together with TV5's Alagang Kapatid Foundation Inc. ("AKFI"), OMF distributed more than 3,000 relief packages to evacuation centers in Batangas and Cavite. It also teamed up with PLDT-Smart



PLDT Community Relations Head Katherine Diaz and PSF President Esther Santos distribute relief packs to evacuees.

Foundation ("PSF") distributing relief goods, hygiene kits and hot meals to evacuees.

### **CONNECTIVITY AND MEDICAL NEEDS**

PLDT and Smart set up free calls, charging and WiFi Internet booths in various relocation and coordination sites, hospitals, transport hubs and government offices. Smart's technical teams installed generators in the affected cell sites and provided mobile credits for the site coordinators.

Volunteer doctors and nurses from Makati Medical Center assisted at the

mobile nebulizer stations set up within AKFI's truck, while Cardinal Santos Medical Center provided medicines and assistance, while Tulong Kapatid offered free medical check-ups.

Metro Pacific Investments Corporation provided water filters, bedding and clothing for families staying at evacuation centers.

### **EMPLOYEES. SUBSCRIBERS PITCH IN**

Employee volunteers of the First Pacific Group's Tulong Kapatid CSR teams took part in relief distribution efforts. The companies also launched their respective fund-raising campaigns to support affected communities. PLDT, Smart and Sun's subscribers could contribute their accumulated MVP Rewards as donations to the relief efforts. <<

# MPTC wins ASEAN Business Award

etro Pacific Tollways Corporation ("MPTC"), the developer and operator of the biggest network of world-class expressways in the Philippines, won the "ASEAN Business Award for Priority Integration Sector: Infrastructure" in the "Large Tier" category for 2019. The award was given to MPTC for the company's contribution to the integration between ASEAN businesses and for its extensive connectivity across the region. MPTC received the award on 2 November 2019, at the 2019 ASEAN Business Awards ("ABA") Gala Night during the 35th Association of Southeast Asian Nations ("ASEAN") Summit hosted by Thailand.

MPTC President and CEO Rodrigo E Franco said, "This recognition is very timely as we are making inroads into the ASEAN region, to build and operate tollways, initially Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand. As we bring to these countries our own highly developed technologies and world-class standards."

The ABA was established in 2007 by the ASEAN Business Advisory Council

to recognize enterprises that contribute to the growth of the ASEAN economy.

MPTC has acquired significant stakes in three major infrastructure companies in the region, with investments in PT Nusantara Infrastructure Tbk in Indonesia, CII Bridges and Roads in Vietnam, and Don Muang Tollway Public Limited in Thailand. <<



MPTC Senior Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management Romulo S Quimbo, Jr., (left), receives the ASEAN Business Award for Priority Integration Sector: Infrastructure, Large Tier Category from Chairman of the Thailand Federation of Industries Supant Mongkolsuthree.

# **PLDT-Smart Foundation celebrates** 25 years of changing lives

PSF commemorates its silver anniversary throughout 2019



As a non-profit organization, PSF serves as the social outreach arm of the Philippines' leading telco and digital services provider PLDT Inc. and its wireless subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. ("Smart"). Headed by PLDT and Smart Chairman Manuel V Pangilinan, PSF created programs

focused on education, livelihood and social enterprise, disaster response and recovery, youth arts and sports development. All these endeavors are created to fulfil the needs and uplift the quality of life of each and every Filipino.

Pangilinan says, "Over the past quarter century, the PLDT-Smart Foundation has been actively pursuing various efforts to change the lives of Filipinos for the better. The Foundation has become a platform for helping the country's nation-building through its diverse CSR efforts. It has pursued these efforts through strong, effective partnerships with corporations, nongovernment organizations, cooperatives, institutions,

and, national and local government units and agencies."

SILVER ANNIVERSARY MILESTONE

"25 years is a milestone for us. It is a manifestation of our passion for the work that we do, for the many lives we've touched, and for the countless hours we have dedicated in reaching out to different people and various communities over the years. In

> turn, our lives have been changed by these people who have shown such resiliency and bravery," PSF President **Esther Santos** said.



For 25 years, PSF has worked to transform the lives of Filipinos. Watch the Anniversary video here.

25 Years PSF

VIDEO Watch at www.firstpacific.com/press/theview.php

### **PILLARS OF STRENGTH**

Two of PSF's main pillars include education and its partnerships. The PSF believes in investing in our teachers and students through educational programs and scholarship grants that can help elevate the overall quality of education in the Philippines.

### Sack of Joy

PSF considers education as one of the pillars of nation-building. PLDT employees are encouraged to nominate any public school which needs support by sending the school profile to the foundation. In less than a year, the PSF has reached out to a total of 77 schools nationwide with over 9,000 Sack of Joy bags distributed, containing school supplies to help students perform better at school.

### **Gabay Guro Program**

In support of the Department of Education's goal of improving the quality of eduction, PSF, in coordination with the PLDT Managers Club Inc. created a program to foster professional development among

> Filipino teachers. As PSF's education program arm and flagship project, Gabay Guro provides support through scholarship grants to deserving students taking up a Bachelor

of Science in Education; teachers' training; livelihood programs; school broadbanding and computerization; housing and educational facilities; teachers' tribute; and innovation.

Since Gabay Guro's inception in 2007, there has been a total of 1,313 graduates. Over the last 12 years, the program has trained over 19,000 teachers nationwide.

### School-in-a-Bag

Through Smart Community Partnerships' School-in-a-Bag ("SIAB") Program, PSF makes educational materials accessible to schools in remote and underserved

communities, many without access to electricity and connectivity. The Program uses mobile technology coupled with an innovative, 21st century teaching pedagogy and K+12 content to enable learning. UBS Philippines donated ₱1 million to PSF in 2017 which benefited 10 recipient schools nationwide.

PSF also donated three units of SIAB to the 4th district of Ormoc, an area severely affected by Typhoon Yolanda in 2013.

### **Dynamic Learning Program**

Powered by the PSF and Smart, the Dynamic Learning Program ("DLP") is a framework for teaching that enables children to become independent learners. It also aims to significantly improve the students' academic performance despite the multiple socio-economic constraints. Smart and the PSF have been supporting the program since 2011 and have reached out to over 158 schools across the country.

### **PNP Educational Grants**

The Philippine National Police ("PNP") educational grant is a one-time grant given to the children of PNP officers who were killed or injured during service. Celebrating a decade this year, the partnership has benefited a total of 571 qualified dependents of PNP personnel.

### **Building strong partnerships**

PSF is among the members of the MVP Tulong Kapatid, (Brotherly help) which is the CSR consortium of the MVP Group of Companies. Through this partnership, PSF has collaborated in notable projects. 266 MVP Homes by Tulong Kapatid were built for Typhoon Pablo survivors in Davao Oriental in 2016. In Palo, Leyte, a 1,200-square-meter evacuation center can accommodate 1,500 people was built with the Archdiocese of Palo and One Meralco Foundation. PSF and One Meralco Foundation also turned over the MVP Technology and Innovation Center to the University of the City of Manila (Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila).

Every year, Tulong Kapatid comes together for Paskong Kapatid, a Christmas celebration. Since 2012, it has spread some early Christmas cheer to over 700 children from various charities and communities. <<

OF SEPTE

ELEMENTA

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THE VIEW 25



### INDOFOOD HOLDS FOOD DESIGN INNOVATION COMPETITION

ndofood continues to spearhead the fight against the scourge of malnutrition and stunting in children. In December 2019, it focused on the rising problem of anemia in pregnant women in Indonesia, for the Scaling Up Nutrition ("SUN") Pitch Competition.

Clinical studies indicate that anemia is closely related to low birth weights and stunting rates of Indonesian children below five years old, which in 2019 was recorded at 27.5%. Co-Chair of Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network ("SBN") Global Advisory Group, Axton Salim said, "The current situation needs innovative and swift solutions. To support the government in providing affordable, accessible and safe nutritious foods, we should embrace industries and SME's as part of a local solutions to accelerate the resolution of anemia and malnutrition problems in Indonesia."

### **DISRUPTIVE, VIABLE INNOVATIONS**

Under the theme, "Innovation in Food Designs with Focus on Handling Anemia and Malnutrition," small-medium enterprises ("SMEs") were challenged to identify and scale up disruptive, appropriate and commercially viable technological innovations that can address local food systems constraints and improve access to nutritious and safe foods.



Eight members of SBN Indonesia: Indofood, Kalbe, Nutrifood Indonesia, Otsuka Indonesia, Tirta Investama, BASF Indonesia, Cargill Indonesia and East West Seed Indonesia held the SUN Pitch Competition 2019.

"The winners of SUN Pitch Competition will be mentored by companies at SBN that match with the need of every startup," said Axton who is also on Indofood's Board of Directors.

Ten finalists presented their food designs to the board of judges. The winner was Bale Sehat with a bran-processed product, followed with Morimom moringa leaf processed products as the first runner-up, and Calty Yoghurt as the second runner-up. All winners will be funded with the total amount of IDR225 million. The winner will be sent to attend the Global SUN Pitch Competition in Food Industry Asia 2020 held in Singapore. <<





Chief Operating Officer of SEAMEO TROPMED RCCN, Prof. Dr. Endang L. Achadi, MPH., Dr.PH., and Mr Axton Salim, Director, PT Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk and Co-Chair of the SBN Global Advisory Group.

### \land PLDT

# The future of learning PLDT provides digital literacy program

LDT has long been a force for empowerment in digital learning the educational model of the future that has never been more relevant than during challenging times. The flagship PLDT Infoteach Outreach Program aims to provide both school. based and community-based learning, built on a strong foundation of 21st century competencies. This includes critical-thinking, digital literacy,

Progressive training and life-long learning. PLDT partnered with the University of the Philippines Open University ("UPOU") for the 2019 PLDT Infoteach Outreach Program. PLDT Community Relations Division Head Katherine P Diaz De Rivera says, "PLDT recognizes the vital role of technology and development in education. The PLDT Infoteach Outreach Program enables students and teachers

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From left: PLDT Community Relations Head Katherine P Diaz De Rivera, PLDT FVP and Public Affairs Head Ramon R Isberto, University of the Philippines Open University Chancellor Public Affairs Flead reamon R Isberto, Omversi of the Philippines Open University Chancellor Dr. Melinda Bandalaria, and PLDT VP and Public Affairs Deputy Head Carlo S Ople. Dr. Weilinda Bandalana, and PLDT VP and Public Affairs Deputy Head Carlo S Ople.

and other participating sectors to adapt in the digital age. It provides a variety of teaching modules and learning tools that range from digital literacy and social transformation which lead to lifelong learning."

### THOUSANDS EMPOWERED THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

This 12-month-long program comprises the training component and the PLDT Home Fibr Broadband Quiz Contest and caters to different sectors, including teachers and students for school-based training and out-of-school youth for the barangay/community-based training. The training component aims to produce 30 master trainers and 300 trainers; at least 3,000 trained teachers and 3,000 trained students.

"The PLDT Infoteach Outreach Program is anchored on the United Nations Sustainability Development Goal #4 - Quality Education. Distance and online learning is the future. Digital literacy becomes a platform for life-long learning as we empower our Students and teachers to pursue quality education," said UPOU Chancellor Dr. Melinda Bandalaria.

The PLDT Home Fibr Broadband Quiz Contest begins with the Division Level, follows with the Regional, and ends with the National Level which includes teachers, Students and communitybased participants.

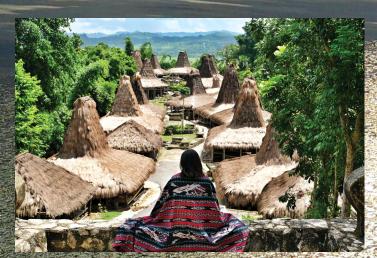
# 5th First Pacific Group Photo Competition

Congratulations to the five talented photographers who were selected by our Chairman as winners of the Photo Competition, and of course, to the participants from 16 companies!

The entries were striking in their showcasing of the environment and culture. Prizes ranged from US\$2,000 for the Champion to US\$900 each for the 2nd Runners-up.

Be inspired to take part in the next First Pacific Group Photo Competition later this year!





**1st Runner-up** Traditional Village – Praijing Nanda Rachherlambang PT Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk

**Champion** *The Fear* Princess Diane Basal Meralco

Joint 2nd Runners-up Left: The Harvest, Heinz Reimann D Orais, MPT South Corporation Center: Pamana, Dennis S Pasag, Philex Mining Corporation Right: A Moment of Bliss, Katrina Dominique A Mallari, PLDT Inc.







